



**For Immediate Release
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**GRADUATING MASS PARKS AMERICORPS MEMBERS HONORED
IN CEREMONY AT DUBUQUE MEMORIAL STATE FOREST**

HAWLEY—Today, in a ceremony hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Student Conservation Association (SCA) at Dubuque Memorial State Forest, 23 students from across the U.S. graduated from the Mass Parks AmeriCorps program.

“I want to both congratulate and thank the 23 graduates from across the country we have gathered here today,” said Priscilla Geigis, Director of DCR’s Division of State Parks & Recreation. “Mass Parks AmeriCorps members serve as inspirational examples of land stewards. Their conservation and education efforts are invaluable to the Commonwealth.”

The Mass Parks AmeriCorps program, which is both the first residential and the first environmental AmeriCorps program in Massachusetts, is co-sponsored by DCR and the SCA, and is a partnership between DCR, the SCA, the Massachusetts Service Alliance and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Members live at Dubuque Memorial State Forest in Hawley, but undertake conservation projects throughout the Commonwealth.

A major focus of the program is environmental education outreach. Mass Parks AmeriCorps members work with educators at local schools to design activities and lesson plans that educate local youth about the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship, enabling students to become involved in their local natural and cultural resources.

In 2006, the AmeriCorps members completed over 34,000 hours of community service, including their environmental education efforts, and some 30 conservation projects. These included clearing and maintaining over 138,000 feet of trails, building 14,500 feet of new trails, planting trees, constructing and repairing bridges, and working on maintaining campsites all across the state.

A new effort undertaken by AmeriCorps members this year was the organizing of Park-Serve Day on May 13. The event gathered AmeriCorps members and local volunteers at various DCR facilities in Western Massachusetts for a day of cleaning and light maintenance to beautify the facilities for the public in time for the summer recreation season.

Over the course of the program, now in its ninth year, Corps members—with 200,000 hours of service hours contributed—have completed nearly 300 conservation projects on public lands across the Commonwealth.

A full list of graduates is attached.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Mass Parks AmeriCorps graduates – 2006

Angela Avilez, Illinois

Michelle Johnson, Maui, Hawaii

Amber Baker, Turners Falls, Massachusetts

Jon Kravitz, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Kris Brumbaugh, Houston, Texas

Dan LaFrance, Whitehall, New York

Kevin Clarke, Olympia, Washington

Dustin Laverack, Ashland, New Hampshire

Eric DeRoche, Leverett, Massachusetts

Kyli Mann, Seattle, Washington

Amanda Dubrowski, Plymouth,
Massachusetts

Mike O'Connor, Worcester, Massachusetts

David Duran, El Paso, Texas

Tim Pilesky, Neptune, New Jersey

Dustin Gervais, Albany, New York

Brandon Solarski, Naperville, Illinois

Luke Grange, Portland, Oregon

Corrine Steever, Burnsville, Minnesota

David Habib, Cincinnati, Ohio

Matt Tozer, Worcester, Massachusetts

Rukiya Hutchinson, Queens, New York

Patti Workover, San Jose, California

Claire Ingalsbe, Portland, Oregon